

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, April 18, 1917

Beinn Bhreagh, near Baddeck, Nova Scotia. 1917 April 18 Mrs Alexander Graham Bell
1331 Connecticut Avenue Washington D C Dear Mabel:—

I spent this afternoon at the Sheep barns examining the Ewes although Mr Rose is not here we succeeded in identifying all of the Ewes and Rams by their ear marks. A fine lot of Sheep, in fine condition; but from the point of view of nipples not so satisfactory, in most cases the nipples are arranged in an irregular manner and though the extra nipples are well developed there are no signs that the lambs have used any of them.

I will make out a report of my examination to put in our Sheep files and will send you a copy.

I was glad to find that the black ram #2308, which had been loaned to Mr MacInnis has been returned. He is a magnificent animal and, though we do not need him here any more I should like to see him at the head of a flock some where. Mr Percy Blanchard has come to see the great importance to the farmer of Nova Scotia of a successful outcome to our breeding experiments and he has applied to Mr Davidson for a ram and ewes to introduce into his flock, at Ellershouse, Nova Scotia.

Mr Davidson's flock is too small to supply him with what he wants and I think it will be a good plan to write and offer him some of your stock. If he has no prejudice against the use of a black ram I would recommend that Mr Rose should try to sell him #2308 and a few ewes.

The ice has now all disappeared from Baddeck Bay although there was a sharp frost last night and a scim of new ice this morning.

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John MacDermid took me up to the Sheep barns today and then absolutely refused to drive me home to the "Get-Away" so I had to walk— and enjoyed the walk too. He is determined to make me take some exercise.

I am quite well but confess that I do need exercise.

Beinn Bhreagh looks very desolate now. I went into the Point House for some books but was glad to come out again, it looked so lonely and deserted.

Mr Baldwin and I yesterday commenced our Laboratory Conferences. Nothing special to report yet.

I have arranged to examine the lambs tomorrow. You have had thirty one lambs born in your flock this year. Mr Davidson lost half of his lambs but only one or two of your lambs have died. They are a very nice set— all excepting one he is a male who was born with long dew-lap ears which hung down , about the middle of the ear the crease in the ears stopped the circulation so that the extremities of both ears became dead and dropped off and he looks as though his ears had been cut in half with a pair of shears. There is also a peculiar appearance about the eyes as though he had a large pair of livid spectacles on his face. He is the largest lamb we have. I have not yet examined any of the lambs closely but I rather suspect that he will go on account of his peculiar appearance.

Your loving, Alec.